

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A man-machine interface method for assisting a user in a decision making process, for use with a machine having a video monitor device and a user input device, the man-machine interface method comprising:
 - accepting a decisional event from the user input device, the decisional event utilized as a basis to query one or more external or internal data sources to gather first and second information related to the decisional event; and
 - generating a display for output on the video monitor device, the display including
 - a first window displaying first information of a first type, the first information being related to the decisional event, and
 - a second window displaying second information of a second type, the second information being related to the decisional event.
2. (Previously presented) The man-machine interface method of claim 1, the display generated simulates a three-dimensional environment in which the first and second windows reside.
3. (Previously presented) The man-machine interface method of claim 2, the first and second windows are represented as sides of an unfolded geometric object.
4. (Previously presented) The man-machine interface method of claim 2, the first and second windows are represented as sides of an unfolded cube.
5. (Previously presented) The man-machine interface method of claim 2, each of the first and second windows include a maximize button,

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

when the maximize button of the first window is selected, a display having the first window, arranged in normal, head-on, view, is generated, and

when the maximize button of the second window is selected, a display having the second window, arranged in normal, head-on, view, is generated.

6. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 1 further comprising:

generating a visual indicator for associating the first information of the first window and the second information of the second window.

7. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 6, the visual indicator is selected from at least one of a colored line, a colored ray, and a colored arc.

8. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 7, the visual indicator is translucent.

9. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 1, the first window includes alternative representations of the first information, each of which is related to the decisional event.

10. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 9, the first window depicts a calendar having a number of alternative time sequences, the alternative representations of the first information may be an alternative time duration on each of the alternative time sequences.

11. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 1 further comprising:

forming a search query based, at least in part, on contents of the decisional event.

12. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 11, the search query is further based, at least in part, on a user profile.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

13. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 11 further comprising:
returning a result of the search query;
determining whether the result includes any information of the first type or of the second type; and
if the result includes any information of the first type, generating a visual representation of such information on the first window, and if the result includes any information of the second type, generating a visual representation of such information on the second window.
14. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 1, the first window is a bulletin board, and
a note, having contents entered by a user, is arranged on the bulletin board and defines the decisional event.
15. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 1, the first window is a map, and
a place of the map related to the decisional event includes a marker.
16. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 15, the marker is a colored circle.
17. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 16, the marker is translucent.
18. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 16, the second window is a bulletin board, and
a note, having contents entered by a user, is arranged on the bulletin board, defines the decisional event and has a color which matches the color of the marker.
19. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 1, the first window is an information browser.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

20. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 19 further comprising:
forming a search query based, at least in part, on contents of the decisional event.
21. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 20, the search query is further based, at least in part, on a user profile.
22. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 20 further comprising:
submitting the search query to the information browser;
returning a result of the search query;
determining whether the result includes any information of the second type; and
if the result includes any information of the second type, generating a visual representation of such information on the second window.
23. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 22, the information browser is selected from at least one of a browser for browsing HTML pages, a browser for browsing documents, a browser for browsing databased files, a browser for browsing a schedule, a browser for browsing a to do list, and a browser for browsing contacts.
24. (Withdrawn) The man-machine interface method of claim 22, the second window is a map, and the information of the second type includes places and addresses.
25. (Currently amended) A man-machine interface for assisting a user in a decision making process, for use with a machine having a video monitor device and a user input device, the man-machine interface comprising:
a standby state in which a display including a simulated three dimensional environment having
a first window displaying first information of a first type, the first information defining an aspirational event utilized to automatically acquire first and second information related to the aspirational event from the Internet or local data sources, and

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

a second window displaying second information of a second type,
the second information being related to the aspirational event[[,]] and
is generated for rendering on the video monitor device;

a first window update state during which the user can update the first
window by entering commands via the user input device;

a second window update state during which the user can update the second
window by entering commands via the user input device;

a first window focus view state in which a display including the first
window, arranged in a normal head-on view, is generated for rendering on the video
monitor device; and

a second window focus view state in which a display including the second
window, arranged in a normal head-on view, is generated for rendering on the video
monitor device.

26. (Previously presented) The man-machine interface of claim 25, when in the standby
state,

if a first user command is received from user input device, the first
window update state is entered,

if a second user command is received from user input device, the second
window update state is entered,

if a third user command is received from user input device, the first
window focus view state is entered, and

if a fourth user command is received from the user input device, the
second window focus view state is entered.

27. (Previously presented) The man-machine interface of claim 26, the first user
command is locating a cursor over the first window, the second user command is locating
a cursor over the second window, the third user command is clicking a maximize button
of the first window, and the fourth user command is clicking a maximize button of the
second window.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

28. (Previously presented) The man-machine interface of claim 26, each of the first window focus view state and the second window focus view state include a world-in-miniature tool which includes a representation of the standby state.

29. (Previously presented) The man-machine interface of claim 26, when in the first window focus view state,

if a first user command is received from the input device, the standby state is entered, and

if a second user command is received from the input device, the second windows focus view state is entered.

30. (Previously presented) The man-machine interface of claim 29, the first user command is a click on a minimize button on the first window and the second user command is a flicking gesture.

31. (Currently amended) A method for managing a man-machine interface, including:

providing a first window for displaying first information of a first type, the first information being related to an inclinational event, the inclinational event generates a query utilized to collect at least first and second information related to the inclinational event from the Internet, and

providing a second window for displaying second information of a second type, the second information being related to the inclinational event, for assisting a user in a decision making process, for use with a machine having a video monitor device and a user input device, the method comprising:

accepting user commands from the user input device;

updating states of the first and second windows based on the user commands accepted;

determining a state of the man-machine interface based on the user commands accepted; and

if the state of the man-machine interface is a standby state,

generating a display of a three dimensional environment including the first

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

and second windows for rendering on the video monitor device, and
generating a visual link from the first information in the
first window to the second information in the second window
if the state of the man-machine interface is a first window
focus view state, generating a display of the first window in a
normal, head on, view, and
if the state of the man-machine interface is a second
window focus view state, generating a display of the second
window in a normal, head on, view.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, updating states of the first and second windows based on the user commands accepted includes:

generating an query based on at least one of the (a) the user inputs and (b) a user profile;

processing the query to generate a return; and

determining whether the return includes information of the first type or information of the second type, if the return includes information of the first type, the first window is updated, and if the return includes information of the second type, the second window is updated.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, the first window is a bulletin board, and the updating states of the first and second windows based on the user commands accepted includes:

determining whether a cursor is on the first window and if so,

determining whether a note creation command was entered and if so,
accepting text via the user input device;

determining whether a note edit command was entered and if so, editing a
note based on entries from the user input device;

determining whether a note posting command was entered and if so,

generating a query based on the contents of the note,

processing the query to generate a return, and

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

determining whether the return includes an information of the second type and if so, updating the second window; and
determining whether a note move command was entered and if so, updating a location of the note on the bulletin board.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, the note creation command is a mouse click when a cursor is located over an empty part of the bulletin board,
the note edit command is a mouse click when a cursor is located over an existing note on the bulletin board,
a note posting command is a flicking gesture, and
a note move command is a mouse drag.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, if one of a note creation command and a note edit command is entered displaying the note in a normal, head on, view in a foreground of the three dimensional environment.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31 the first window is a map,
the map includes a marker at a location associated with the inclinational event,
and
the updating states of the first and second windows based on the user commands accepted includes:
determining whether a cursor is on the first window and if so,
determining whether a marker delete command is entered and if so,
deleting the marker from the map, and
determining whether a marker move command is entered and if so,
moving the marker on the map.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 36, if a marker move command is entered, the inclinational event is updated to reflect its new location.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, the first window is a calendar,
the calendar includes a number of alternative time lines,
the calendar includes an interval at a data associated with the inclinational event,
in each of the alternative time lines, and
the updating states of the first and second windows based on the user commands
accepted includes:
determining whether a cursor is on the first window and if so,
determining a selected one of the alternative time lines,
determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time
lines is subject to a move command and if so, moving the interval,
determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time
lines is subject to a lengthen command and if so, lengthening the duration of the
interval,
determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time
lines is subject to a shorten command and if so, shortening the duration of the
interval,
determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time
lines is subject to a deletion command and if so, deleting the interval, and
determining whether an interval creation command is entered and if so,
generating an interval in at least the selected one of the alternative time lines.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, if the state of the man-machine
interface is the standby state, and if the first window is maximized, the first window
focus view state is entered, and

if the state of the man-machine interface is the standby state, and if the second
window is maximized, the second window focus view state is entered.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, if the state of the man-machine
interface is the first window focus view state, and if the first window is minimized, the
standby state is entered, and

if the state of the man-machine interface is the first window focus view state, and

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

if a flicking gesture is entered, the second window focus view state is entered.

41. (Currently amended) A system for assisting a user in a decision making process, the system comprising:

- an input facility for accepting user inputs;

- a processing facility for :

- accepting user inputs from the input facility, the user inputs used to access a plurality of external informational resources to produce a plurality of information related to a desirous event,

- determining [[a]] the desirous event based on user inputs from the input facility,

- determining first information of a first type, the first information being related to the desirous event,

- determining second information of a second type, the second information being related to the desirous event,

- determining a first window including a visual representation of the first information,

- determining a second window including a visual representation of the second information,

- generating a simulated three dimensional environment,

- determining a display state based on user inputs from the input facility,

- and

- generating video outputs including

- the first and second windows arranged in the simulated three dimensional environment when a first display state is determined,

- the first window, in a normal, head on, view when a second display state is determined, and

- the second window, in a normal, head on, view when a third display state is determined; and

- a video monitor unit for rendering the video outputs generated by the processing facility.

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

42. (Previously presented) The system of claim 41, the processing facility further updates states of the first and second windows based on the user commands accepted by the input facility.

43. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 42, the processing facility updates states of the first and second windows by:

- generating an query based on at least one of the user inputs and a user profile;
- processing the query to generate a return; and
- determining whether the return includes information of the first type or information of the second type, if the return includes information of the first type, the first window is updated, and if the return includes information of the second type, the second window is updated.

44. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 42, the first window is a bulletin board, and the processing facility updates states of the first and second windows by:

- determining whether a cursor is on the first window and if so,
 - determining whether a note creation command was entered and if so,
 - accepting text via the user input device,
 - determining whether a note edit command was entered and if so, editing a note based on entries from the user input device;
- determining whether a note posting command was entered and if so,
 - generating a query based on the contents of the note,
 - processing the query to generate a return, and
 - determining whether the return includes any information of the second type and if so, updating the second window; and
- determining whether a note move command was entered and if so,
- updating a location of the note on the bulletin board.

45. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44, the note creation command is a mouse click when a cursor is located over an empty part of the bulletin board,
the note edit command is a mouse click when a cursor is located over an existing

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

note on the bulletin board,

a note posting command is a flicking gesture, and

a note move command is a mouse drag.

46. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 44, if one of a note creation command and a note edit command is entered, the note is displayed, on the video monitor, in a normal, head-on, view in a foreground of the three dimensional environment.

47. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 42, the first window is a map,

the map includes a marker at a location associated with the desirous event, and

the processing facility updates states of the first and second windows by:

determining whether a cursor is on the first window and if so,

determining whether a marker delete command is entered and if so,

deleting the marker from the map, and

determining whether a marker move command is entered and if so,

moving the marker on the map.

48. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 47, if a marker move command is entered, the processing facility updates the desirous event to reflect its new location.

49. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 42, the first window is a calendar,

the calendar includes a number of alternative time lines,

the calendar includes an interval at a date associated with the desirous event, in each of the alternative time lines, and

the processing facility updates states of the first and second windows by:

determining whether a cursor is on the first window and if so,

determining a selected one of the alternative time lines,

determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time lines is subject to a move command and if so, moving the interval,

determining whether an interval in the selected one of the

09/329,140

MS115203.01/MSFTP334US

alternative time lines is subject to a lengthen command and if so, lengthening the duration of the interval,
determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time lines is subject to a shorten command and if so, shortening the duration of the interval,
determining whether an interval in the selected one of the alternative time lines is subject to a deletion command and if so, deleting the interval, and
determining whether an interval creation command is entered and if so, generating an interval in at least the selected one of the alternative time lines.

50. (Currently amended) A tangible medium storing or communicating machine readable instructions which, when executed by a machine, performs:

accepting an expectational event from the user input device;
querying at least one internal data source and the Internet to access at least first information of a first type and second information of a second type related to the expectational event; and
generating a display for output on the video monitor device, the display including
a first window displaying first information of a first type, the first information being related to the expectational event, and
a second window displaying second information of a second type, the second information being related to the expectational event.